

**St. John the Baptist Parish
Economic Development Committee**
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Monday, November 5, 2018

ATTENDANCE:

Present:

Michelle Jenkins
Kim Fontenot
Evin Stein
Robert Taylor
Tyler Lewis
Peggy Joseph
James Oubre, Jr.
Kali J. Price

Staff:

Jerry Jones
Denise Burrell

Guest:

Sheriff Mike Tregre
Stephen Louque
Lester Mitchell
Stacey Scott
Yasmaine Magee
Wayne Aucoin
Lois Frank
Lawrence Lawes

Larry Snyder
Larry Sorapuru
Patrick Gordon
Pamela Allen
Kennedi Miller
Rena Jackson
Ali Vicknair

Absent:

Elizabeth R. Joseph

Call to Order

Chairwoman Michelle Jenkins called meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

Roll Call

Seven (8) Committee members were present. One (1) Absent - Quorum was met.

Opening Prayer / Pledge of Allegiance

Michelle Jenkins led prayer. Evin Stein led Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments (3) Minutes – No Public Comments

Adoption of Minutes from July 9, 2018 Meeting

Motion from Tyler Lewis and seconded by Evin Stein to adopt the September 10th meeting minutes. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 1 absent (Elizabeth R. Joseph)

Director's Report – Jerry Jones (see report)

Old Business – No Old Business

New Business

- **Business Talk** – No Business Talk
- Presentation of the International Economic Development Council's Excellence in Economic Development to St. John the Baptist Parish for St. John Economic Development Week

Community Partners' Update

- **Entergy Louisiana** – Absent
- **Louisiana Small Business Development Center** – Wayne Aucoin
 - Lunch and Learn
 - Show Me the Money! Accessing Money to Grow Your Business
 - Speakers: Loan Officers and Bankers (Meet the Lender Panel)
 - November 28, 2018; 11:30am – 1:00pm
 - FastTrac Graduation
 - November 28, 2018; 6:00pm – River Parishes Community College Reserve Campus Media Center (New Building)
 - FastTrac two classes remaining; 2018 schedule is being worked on

- **Port of South Louisiana** – Absent
- **River Parishes Community College (RPCC)** – Absent
- **River Parish Tourist Commission (RPTC)** – Absent
 - **St. John Community Center & Soundstage** – Absent
- **River Parishes Workforce Development** – Lawrence Lawes
 - Late starting our workshops series;
 - January Workshops:
 - Enhanced use of HiRE recruiting tool
 - The elements of a successful job order or job announcement
 - Exact dates and location TBA
 - Other business workshops planned:
 - Taking Advantage of Workforce Development Tax Credits
 - Utilizing the Small Business Employee Training fund
 - Utilizing the Incumbent Worker Training Program
 - Retention of Workforce
 - Internal Workforce Development
- **River Region Chamber of Commerce** - Stacey Scott
 - Organizational
 - Board retreat being planned for December to set the program of work for 2019!
 - New member engagement coordinator continues visits in each of the 3 parishes to members and potential members.
 - Reminder: Feel free to share with businesses - Chamber 101 (orientation to learn how to maximize your investment) takes place every other month, 1st Friday, 11:30 am. Anyone interested in learning more about the chamber is welcomed. Next one is Dec. 7.
 - Chamber Member Directory and Community Profile being updated for the Fall/Winter 2018.
 - Networking
 - Annual Golf Tournament was held Oct 19 at Belle Terre Country club. Approx. 230 golfers participated. Congrats to Mosaic for winning 1st and 3rd place in the PM round.
 - Next Chamber Connections Lunch will be held Nov. 13, 11:30 am at Plantation View in St. Charles Parish, hosted by St. Charles Hospital.
 - Advocacy
 - Legislative Breakfast briefing was held last Monday with our local delegation, Board and policy members of the Chamber. These opportunities will take place more frequently to keep open lines of communication with our elected officials. Press release will come out soon on details.
 - Leadership River Region
 - The Class of 2019 opening retreat was held on October 10th, 2018. Sponsorships are available and needed to help ensure a successful program. The next session will be Nov 14, hosted by St. John Parish at the Community Center.
- **South Central Planning and Development Commission** – Patrick Gordon
 - Regional Economic Development Disaster Resilience Program (REDRM) initiating the beginning of next year and will send the description of the program to Jerry Jones.
 - Reserve Welding School came in \$800,000 over budget and they have now thrown out the bids and are redesigning with more realistic construction cost in mind.
- **St. John Business Association** – Absent
- **St. John the Baptist Parish School Board** – Absent

Announcements

- Annual Veterans Day Celebration Parade – November 11th at 11am in LaPlace
- Annual Veterans Day Celebration Program – November 11th at 12noon Southeast LA War Veterans in Reserve
- November 15th at 10:00am – River Parishes Tourist Commission Meeting
- The US Army Corps of Engineers will host Industry Day
 - Friday, November 16th 8:30 am to 12:00 noon in Baton Rouge for local contractors and members of the construction industry.
 - Providing information regarding the West Shore Lake Pontchartrain Storm Damage Risk Reduction Levee Project – seeking land to store dirt
- Sheriff Mike Tregre shared there will be deputies in parking lots during the holiday season; shared the need for the development of typing courses for dispatchers.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Tyler Lewis and seconded by Robert Taylor. Meeting was adjourned at 1:03 pm.